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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	1. Grain Storage Area in P'yongwŏn-gun 2. Summer Grain Taxes-in-kind for 1953	DATE DISTR.	29 October 1953
	25X1A	NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	

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SOURCE:

1. On 25 June 1953 approximately 80,000 bags of grains were stored in a warehouse at YD-244548 near Wŏnnyu-ri (N 39-19, E 125-36) (YD-2455), and in 12 semi-underground storage areas near the warehouse at the foot of a hill. These grains were collected in 1952 as taxes-in-kind from the farmers in P'yongwŏn-gun. The grains consisted of rice, unhulled rice, beans, and corn. Each of the semi-underground storage areas was 20 meters long, 7 meters wide, and 2 meters deep. The bottom was lined with logs, and the bags of grains were piled 10 meters high. Each pile was covered with straw mats and camouflaged with grass and branches. The entire area was patrolled by 10 guards and 15 civilians. Approximately 20 laborers worked in the storage area. The storage area was controlled by the P'yongwŏn-gun People's Committee, and was headed by KIM Tok-pom (6855/1795/4636), aged 40 and member of the Food Administration Section of the P'yongwŏn-gun People's Committee.
2. The grain was issued to military personnel, government employees, and policemen. North Korean Army units received their allotment through the Food Administration Section on orders from the Food Administration Division of the Provincial Committee. Approximately two truck loads of grains were issued to military personnel each day. Government employees received a semi-monthly ration from the P'yongwŏn-gun Consumers' Guild on orders from the Food Administration Section of the P'yongwŏn-gun People's Committee. Approximately 20 ox-carts of grains were issued to government employees every 15 days.
3. In July 1953 the summer grain taxes-in-kind were being collected in the Yŏnbaek-kun (N 38-02, E 126-08) (BT-4813) area at the rate of 23 percent of the crop. Agricultural instructors were sent to various villages to supervise the collection

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of taxes-in-kind. Although the legal rate of tax was 23 percent, actually 60 percent of the crop was being collected.¹ Many of the smaller farmers produced all of their crops as taxes, but still did not meet their quotas. Approximately 40 percent of the farmers in the Yonbaek-kun area will be short on food as most of their crops went for taxes. The Chinese Communist authorities in the area claimed that relief grains were to arrive from China, and the North Korean people would be well-fed for 3 months.

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1. Comment. According to , in late July farmers in North Korea were being taxed 80 percent of all the crops they produced.

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